December 31, 1981
10:30 P.M.

Dear Harold,

It's New Year's Eve and it's also the 69th anniversary of the birth of my natural mother. Funny, but I've always had an inkling of remembering little things like that. To me, those little things are forever important. I received your letter today. I was beginning to worry about hearing from you as you always maintain a daily regimen including correspondence.

I got a kick out of the hot water jug concept. Basic ideas are salvation. Necessity is the mother of invention. I've always said, Ingenuity is the Father! Window shopping isn't such a bad idea either since it is warm in the mall. I remember stopping at the very one often. We'd hit that barbecue up the road all the time. Barbara Fritchie Restaurant, I think. I do wish my old man shared certain self help initiatives you posers. He'd be a lot better off. He is languishing in Macon, Ga. giving my mother and everyone else problems we don't need. I can't forecast improvement. I can only hope.

As that is not the case in all respects, being locked up. There are some things I can work on. And I do. Forgive me for not speaking of Jan and only of BUCK FITZGERALD. I am proud of him and he is very deserving. He's quite a kid, even what I hear about him lately. I met Jan in 1978 and we lived on and off together till I returned here. Some of it was a practical convenience but it grew. She loves me more than I deserve. She has an 8 year old son who never knew his father.

The guy was a no account jail bird who left her high and dry. Sounds like me, huh Harold? Well, I let Clinton grow on me and vice versa. I love him like a son and I am sure I was a good influence on him. I made every attempt at such. I also did the right thing by Jan and to her benefit. Such as vegetables and fruit to replace canned spaghetti..... running rather than sedentary comfort..... you know the contrasts. as I regained physical and mental control over myself, the influence spread. I don't wish to say anything negative about Jan, but it wasn't a relationship made in heaven. She has been for all intents and sincere purposes, so very good to me. Unknowing of who, what and why.

Last winter she informed me that I was a father to be and that was that! Funny, but I never really had the urge to interrupt the process on this particular occassion. I assume some things are meant to be. You know, you did ask for all of this and I can't think of many people I would share it with. I don't know what I will do when I get out as far as domicile arrangements. I have a very important obligation to both Clinton and Buck, in similar and different respects. Same thing with Jan.

But I owe myself the happiness I have wanted, for years. I know it's crazy, but I still think of having it with Connie, on a limited basis. If She had been somewhat more mature and considerate...But we can't always get what we want.....

I just finished reading a book on the KAREN SILKWOOD murder. Howard Kohn of Rolling Stone wrote it. I had followed the case since it became common knowledge in late '74, but the book was great on detail. It mentioned a JACKIE ~~SCRUGGS~~ SROUJI with the NASHVILLE TENNESSEAN and I immediately remembered Vanderbilt and all. She seems to have had more than one purpose to serve in the mystery. Any light you can shed on all of this? If you have time, I'm interested.

Well, it's getting close to midnight and I'm going to get on the phone. All is right if not great with me. My resolve and initiative are creating a place for me here and I become somewhat more comfortable as the days go by. My confidence expands from this effort.

I can use the radio but let's wait for a short time till I can work it out just right. I sure appreciate your offer though. FRAME-UP would be of some interest to the BLACK COMMUNITY here.

I look forward to the new year as more in recent past. I wish you and Lil a Happy and a better one, 1982

So much for now. My best of wishes to you both. Again HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Floyd